

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, LT

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR USDEL MASERU HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM

REF: (A) MASERU 1534; (B) MASERU 1544; (C) STATE 181141

1. FOLLOWING ARE APPROVED REMARKS FOR YOUR USE IN INTERVEN-
TION AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY IN SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSIONS.
YOU SHOULD ALSO DRAW AS NEEDED ON EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMEN BEING REPEATED TO YOU IN REF (C) AND OTHER
CABLES IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS.

2. QUOTE. I WISH TO THANK OUR HOST, PRIME MINISTER
JONATHAN, FOR HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS. DR. JONATHAN ELOQUENTLY
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ENUNCIATED THE PROBLEMS OF ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS INHERENT
IN ANY IDEOLOGY OF INEQUALITY, AND WENT STRAIGHT TO THE
HEART OF THE PROBLEM WITH HIS OBSERVATION THAT EVERY ACT
OF BRUTALITY DIMINISHES ALL OF US. IT IS THIS CONVICTION
WHICH UNDERLIES PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN
RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

3. AS THE PRIME MINISTER OBSERVED, IF NARROW MINDS RATHER THAN REASON PREVAIL, THE CHANGES SOUTHERN AFRICA ANTICIPATES WILL COME THROUGH VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED RATHER THAN PEACEFULLY. THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED NOW WOULD HAVE

TO BEAR THE EVEN GREATER SUFFERING WHICH VIOLENCE ENTAILS. THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA IS BASED ON A FIRM COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL CHANGE. LET US, THEREFORE, COMMIT OURSELVES TO REASON AND NOT SUCCUMB TO NARROWNESS OF MIND OR SPIRIT. WE OWE IT TO THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO AVOID AS CRITICS OF APARTHEID THAT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH DR. JONATHAN RIGHTLY CONDEMNED IN SOME OF ITS SUPPORTERS; LET US COME TO AGREEMENTS WHICH CAN RESULT IN TANGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN CONDITION RATHER THAN DIVIDE OUR EFFORTS IN RHETORIC AND CONDEMNATION. AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS REMINDED US IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, WE ARE NOT ASSEMBLED HERE TO CONDEMN -- FOR ABUSES OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN CONDEMN THEMSELVES -- BUT TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM, AND HOPEFULLY TO MOVE CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON HOW TO MEET IT.

4. QUOTE. IN THIS REGARD, I TAKE PLEASURE IN NOTING THE CALL OF LESOTHO'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMBASSADOR KOTSOKOANE, FOR "CONCRETE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION" IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES. WHILE THE AMBASSADOR IS CORRECT IN MAINTAINING THAT APARTHEID ITSELF AS AN IDEOLOGY IS INCAPABLE OF IMPROVEMENT OR REFORM, THE INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEINGS WHO NOW SUPPORT IT WITH VARYING DEGREES OF CLOSED-MINDEDNESS AND DOGMATISM OR OPENNESS TO REASON AND MODERATION SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED AS INCORRIGIBLE. AS I HAVE NOTED, OUR POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA IS BASED ON COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL CHANGE AND ON THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT DIALOGUE, REFORM AND RECONCILIATION ARE NOT ONLY POSSIBLE BUT ABSOLUTELY VITAL IF THE ENTIRE REGION IS TO OVERCOME THE LIMITATIONS ON HUMAN ASPIRATIONS AND ABILITIES WHICH APARTHEID REPRESENTS, AVOID SELF-DESTRUCTION AND REALIZE ITS VAST POTENTIAL. IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME, I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT MY OWN COUNTRY, WHICH LIKE ALL COUNTRIES HAS OPPORTUNITIES AT HOME AS WELL AS ABROAD TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HAS SEEN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING DOWN THE BARRIERS OF RACE AND REPLACE THEM WITH RECONCILIATION AND COOPERATION UNLEASH ENERGIES PREVIOUSLY WASTED IN CONTENTION AND LEAD TO UNEXPECTED MUTUAL PROSPERITY.

5. QUOTE. IN THIS REGARD, I COMMEND AND ENDORSE
AMBASSADOR KOTSOKOANE'S ASSERTION THAT THE ONLY VIABLE
ALTERNATIVE TO VIOLENCE, WHICH THE US ABHORS, IS
ECONOMIC ACTION, SPECIFICALLY INCREASED EFFORTS TO
ASSIST AND INVEST IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS LESOTHO, BOTSWANA,
SWAZILAND, AND OTHERS AS A CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO

DISINVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. AMBASSADOR KOTSOKOANE'S
CALL IS FOR A POSITIVE, NOT A NEGATIVE, ACTION. THE
US AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS HAVE RESPONDED POSITIVELY
TO APPEALS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOR DIRECT ASSISTANCE
TO LESOTHO, BOTSWANA AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT
THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR PRINCIPLES UNDER THE
EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEIR
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HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION PLACES THEM. I
WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PLACE A
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON AID AND FRIENDSHIP TOWARD THESE
COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO NONRACIALISM,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, AND THAT WE
ENDORSE THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL TO MAKE THESE MAJORITY-
RULED COUNTRIES THE FOCUS OF OUR INVESTMENT EFFORTS
TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA.UNQUOTE.

6. CONCUR WITH REF (B) THAT YOU SHOULD MAKE REFERENCE
WITH GUARDED OPTIMISM TO TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON
NAMIBIA. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.

7. FYI: YOU SHOULD INSERT INTO ABOVE REMARKS SPECIFIC
REFERENCE(S) TO LESOTHO ROAD OR OTHER EXAMPLES US
ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS PROPOSED USUN SEMINAR TO PROMOTE US
INVESTMENT IN LESOTHO AS YOU JUDGE APPROPRIATE. END FYI.
CHRISTOPHER

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